The demand supply gap of coal

109. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the 'Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act' to open up coal mining to private players without the existing restriction of captive use;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a huge gap between demand and supply of coal in the country;

(d) if so, the present demand-supply gap;

(e) how the gap between demand and supply being met; and

(f) the time by which the coal mining sector is likely to be opened to the private players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The Central Government had sought to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 with a view to allow Indian companies both in the public and private sectors to mine coal in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining and to undertake exploration of coal in the country, in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal. Accordingly, a Bill, namely the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in April, 2000.

(c) and (d) As per Annual Plan, 2006-07, the estimated raw coal demand during current year would be 474.18 Million tonnes. This is planned to be met from domestic supply of 432.39 Million tonnes and gap of 41.79 Million tonnes will have to be met by imports of 24.19 Mt of coking coal for steel sector and 17.60 Mt of non-coking coal for power, cement and others sectors.

(e) Coal India Limited has taken the following steps to increase indigenous coal production:—

(i) 77 coal projects, including expansion/extension projects, at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,452.00 crores, with an ultimate

capacity of 159.385 million tonnes per year, have been sanctioned during Tenth Plan period and are being developed for increase in coal production.

(ii) Improvement in equipment utilization.

(iii) Timely implementation of projects.

(iv) Mechanization/Modernizationof existing mines.

(v) All new mines being planned with mechanization.

(vi) Increasing productivity in both underground and open cast mines.

(vii) Emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

(viii) Further, Government have allotted 123 coal blocks to Government companies (other than CIL/SCCL) and other approved and users which will further augment coal production and improve the availability of coal.

(f) Under the existing legal framework, private players are allowed to undertake coal mining for their captive use.

Joint Bipartite Committee for coal industry

110. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the period for the previous wage agreement is over;

(b) whether Joint Bipartite Committee for coal industry has been constituted for the next round of wage negotiation;

(c) if so, the terms and references of the Committee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.